

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /087 W

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R 160040Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7395

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONGEN BELIZE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3684

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: PINT, EINV, GT

SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL STORY REGARDING DEL MONTE AND  
GUATEMALA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT GIVEN BY PRESS OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JULY 15  
BY OFFICE OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD: BEGIN QUOTE: IN VIEW OF  
STORY PUBLISHED BY WALL STREET JOURNAL OF NEW YORK, UNITED  
STATES, IN ITS EDITION OF JULY 14, ABOUT DEL MONTE PAYMENT  
OF \$5000,000 TO A "SPECIAL CONSULTANT" IN GUATEMALA SO  
THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD APPROVE SALE OF  
UNITED FRUIT CONTRACTS TO DEL MONTE, THE GOVERNMENT  
INFORMS:

(1) PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, GENERAL KJELL E.  
LAUGERUD, HAS ORDERED ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BEGIN AN  
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IMMEDIATE, COMPLETE, AND EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION REGARD-

ING THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH WHO BEARS LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAME.

(2) PRESIDENT HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, DR. ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES, TO CALL US AMBASSADOR TO HIS OFFICE, TO EXPRESS TO HIM THE DISTRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OVER ABOVE EVENT, AND TO REQUEST COOPERATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT SO THAT GUATEMALA MAY RECEIVE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT SAME. THE AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO BE NOTIFIED THAT IF THE EVENT REVEALED IS TRUE, GUATEMALA PROTESTS THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DEL MONTE CORPORATION, RESERVING THE RIGHT TO INSTITUTE THE APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL ACTIONS.

(3) PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS ALSO ORDERED MINISTER OF ECONOMY, LIC. EDUARDO PALOMO ESCOBAR, TO URGENTLY CALL TO HIS OFFICE THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DEL MONTE, IN ORDER THAT HE MAY GIVE A REPORT ON THE SAME INCIDENT.

(4) AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST WALL STREET JOURNAL TO FURNISH ALL PERTINENT EVIDENCE REGARDING THE ACTION REVEALED.

(5) IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS UNDERTAKEN COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES DESTINED TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH OF THE REVELATION, CLARIFY THE RELEVANT FACTS, AND APPLY THE CORRESPONDING MORAL AND LEGAL SANCTION. END QUOTE.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, EINV, GT, WALL STREET JOURNAL, DEL MONTE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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